



**E**Tres douce dame  
pour ycelle grant  
ioye que vous eustes au jour  
de la penthecouste quant vost  
doulz filz enuoya le saint espit  
a ses disciples et il les en lu  
mina et embrasa de sa grace.  
Douce dame pr; lui q'il unel  
le en lumner mo cuer ah; f  
uir + l'puorer. **Que m.**

**E**Tres douce dame  
pour ycelle grant  
ioye que vous eustes au  
jour de nostre Assumption  
quant nostre chier filz vous

en porta es neulx. et vous al  
list ala dextre. et vous couron  
na sur toutes les femmes  
du monde. Douce dame priez  
lui pour moy + pour tous  
pecheurs + pecheuses dont  
il veult estre depris. que par  
la digne uertu ilz puissent  
passer hors de leurs pechiez et  
Amender leurs vies. Amen.  
Aue maria. *Les .v. plaies*  
**D**iconques nost  
veult estre seigneur.  
bien conseillees de  
la chose dont il a grant mes

**MEDIEVAL BOOK OF HOURS LEAF, c. 1420-30 - JOYS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**IM-10894:** (127 x 92mm) Original leaf from a medieval manuscript *Book of Hours*. 15 lines of red-ruled, **French text**, written with dark brown ink in gothic book-hand script on animal vellum. **One four-line illuminated initial in blue on a burnished gold ground** with floral interior design in red, orange & blue extending down the leaf with a bar of burnished gold & blue & into margins with delicate rinceaux design in burnished gold, green, blue & red; **Two two-line illuminated initials in burnished gold** on a blue & red ground with delicate white penwork, extending into margins with a delicate rinceaux design in burnished gold, blue & red; **two one-line illuminated initial** in deep blue with delicate red penwork extending into the margin. **Northern France (Paris), c. 1420-30.**

The text continues one of the most popular 15th century prayers: the ***Fifteen Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary***. The prayer celebrates the joyous moments of the Virgin Mary's life (The Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity...ending with the Assumption into Heaven). Each **two-line illuminated "E"** begins: "E tres doulce dame..." (Very sweet lady...). The **three-line illuminated "Q"** begins a prayer which opens the ***Seven Requests to our Lord***.

This attractive leaf was written and illuminated in France **at a pivotal point in the Hundred Year's War** - England defeated France decisively in Agincourt in 1415 and took Paris in 1420. **Not until Joan of Arc's heroism (1428-29) could France regain hope of restoring its capital. The book from which this came was likely in daily use at that time.**

**Provenance:** Sotheby's - ex G. Barilla of Geneva, formerly Frederick Fowler collection (England c. 1820's).